CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A method for storing electronic documents comprising the steps of:

associating an associative object with at least one electronic document;

displaying an image within a user interface, wherein the image is a user selectable representation for said associative object;

storing at least one metadata attribute as a characteristic related to said associative object;

modifying a storage characteristic of said at least one electronic document based on one of said metadata attributes.

2.   The method of claim 1, wherein said associative object is a digital seal.

3.   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

presenting at least one multimedia object within said user interface, wherein said multimedia object is a user selectable representation for said associative object.

4.   The method of claim 1, said modifying step further comprising the step of:

requiring an authorization code previously specified within one of said metadata attributes before allowing said at least one electronic document to be retrieved.

5.   The method of claim 4, wherein said authorization code is valid for a first user and wherein said authorization code is invalid for a second user.

6.   The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

associating a second associative object with one of said at least one electronic document.

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7. The method of claim 6, wherein said associative object includes an authorization code, and wherein said second associative object includes a second authorization code, said method further comprising the step of:

requiring said first authorization code and said second authorization code before said one of at least one electronic document can be retrieved.

8. The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

establishing a first authorization code for said associative object, wherein said first authorization code is associated with a first image;

encoding said at least one associated electronic documents with a second authorization code associated with a second image; and,

decoding said at least one associated electronic documents using at least in part said first image.

9. A method of storing electronic documents comprising the steps of:

identifying an image selected by a user and displayable within an interface;

identifying at least one multimedia object selected by said user and presentable within said interface;

identifying at least one electronic document selected by said user;

associating said image, said at least one multimedia object, and said at least one electronic document together; and,

storing said at least one electronic document within a storage system, wherein said at least one electronic document can be retrieved from said storage system responsive to said user selection of said at least one image, and wherein said at least one electronic document can be retrieved from said storage system responsive to said user selection of said at least one multimedia object.

10. The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of:

receiving data inputs from a hardware peripheral device, wherein said data inputs are used within said associating step.

11. The method of claim 10, wherein said data inputs result are received from a mouse.

12. The method of claim 10, wherein said hardware peripheral includes a selectable option designed for performing said associating step, wherein said associating step further comprises the step of:

said selecting said selectable option.

13. The method of claim 9, wherein said storing step further comprises:

storing said at least one electronic document in a first storage location and storing association information about said image and said at least one multimedia object in a second storage location.

14. The method of claim 9, wherein said storing step further comprises:

accessing a network storage location across a publicly accessible network; and,

storing at least a portion of said at least one electronic document in said network storage location.

15. A method of retrieving electronic documents comprising the steps of:

identifying a selection of a first associative object associated with a first set of electronic documents;

identifying a selection of a second associative object associated with a second set of electronic documents;

deriving a third set of electronic documents based upon at least one predetermined operation performed upon said first set of electronic documents and said second set of electronic documents; and,

presenting said third set of electronic documents within a user interface responsive to said deriving step.

16. The method of claim 15, further comprising the steps of:

identifying a selection of a portion of said third set of electronic documents; and,

retrieving said portion from a storage system.

17. The method of claim 15, said presenting step further comprising the step of:

within a graphic that represents one electronic document of said third set of electronic documents, displaying a graphic representing at least one associative object associated with said one electronic document.

18. The method of claim 15, wherein said at least one predetermined operation includes at least one Boolean operation.

19. The method of claim 15, wherein said first associative object is a digital seal.

20. The method of claim 19, wherein said second associative object is a container object.

21. The method of claim 19, wherein said second associative object is a metadata attribute of a digital seal.

22. A machine readable storage having stored thereon, a computer program having a plurality of code sections, said code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

associating an associative object with at least one electronic document;

displaying an image within a user interface, wherein the image is a user selectable representation for said associative object;

storing at least one metadata attribute as a characteristic related to said associative object; and,

modifying a storage characteristic of said at least one electronic document based on one of said metadata attributes.

23. The machine readable storage of claim 22, wherein said associative object is a digital seal.

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24.   The machine readable storage of claim 22, further comprising the step of:

presenting at least one multimedia object within said user interface, wherein said multimedia object is a user selectable representation for said associative object.

25.   The machine readable storage of claim 22, said modifying step further comprising the step of:

requiring an authorization code previously specified within one of said metadata attributes before allowing said at least one electronic document to be retrieved.

26.   The machine readable storage of claim 25, wherein said authorization code is valid for a first user and wherein said authorization code is invalid for a second user.

27.   The machine readable storage of claim 22, further comprising the step of:

associating a second associative object with one of said at least one electronic document.

28.   The machine readable storage of claim 27, wherein said associative object includes an authorization code, and wherein said second associative object includes a second authorization code, said machine readable storage further comprising the step of:

requiring said first authorization code and said second authorization code before said one of at least one electronic document can be retrieved.

29.   The machine readable storage of claim 22, further comprising the steps of:

establishing a first authorization code for said associative object, wherein said first authorization code is associated with a first image;

encoding said at least one associated electronic documents with a second authorization code associated with a second image; and,

decoding said at least one associated electronic documents using at least in part said first image.

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30. A machine readable storage having stored thereon, a computer program having a plurality of code sections, said code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

identifying an image selected by a user and displayable within an interface;

identifying at least one multimedia object selected by said user and presentable within said interface;

identifying at least one electronic document selected by said user;

associating said image, said at least one multimedia object, and said at least one electronic document together; and,

storing said at least one electronic document within a storage system, wherein said at least one electronic document can be retrieved from said storage system responsive to said user selection of said at least one image, and wherein said at least one electronic document can be retrieved from said storage system responsive to said user selection of said at least one multimedia object.

31. The machine readable storage of claim 30, further comprising the step of:

receiving data inputs from a hardware peripheral device, wherein said data inputs are used within said associating step.

32. The machine readable storage of claim 31, wherein said data inputs result are received from a mouse.

33. The machine readable storage of claim 31, wherein said hardware peripheral includes a selectable option designed for performing said associating step, wherein said associating step further comprises the step of:

selecting said selectable option.

34. The machine readable storage of claim 30, wherein said storing step further comprises:

storing said at least one electronic document in a first storage location and storing association information about said image and said at least one multimedia object in a second storage location.

35.   The machine readable storage of claim 30, wherein said storing step further comprises:

accessing a network storage location across a publicly accessible network; and,

storing at least a portion of said at least one electronic document in said network storage location.

36.   A machine readable storage having stored thereon, a computer program having a plurality of code sections, said code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

identifying a selection of a first associative object associated with a first set of electronic documents;

identifying a selection of a second associative object associated with a second set of electronic documents;

deriving a third set of electronic documents based upon at least one predetermined operation performed upon said first set of electronic documents and said second set of electronic documents; and,

presenting said third set of electronic documents within a user interface responsive to said deriving step.

37.   The machine readable storage of claim 36, further comprising the steps of:

identifying a selection of a portion of said third set of electronic documents; and,

retrieving said portion from a storage system.

38.   The machine readable storage of claim 36, said presenting step further comprising the step of:

within a graphic that represents one electronic document of said third set of electronic documents, displaying a graphic representing at least one associative object associated with said one electronic document.

39.   The machine readable storage of claim 36, wherein said at least one predetermined operation includes at least one Boolean operation.

40.   The machine readable storage of claim 36, wherein said first associative object is a digital seal.

41.   The machine readable storage of claim 40, wherein said second associative object is a container object.

42.   The machine readable storage of claim 40, wherein said second associative object is a metadata attribute of a digital seal.